

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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TO USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC, CU

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH CUBANS ON PROPOSAL FOR
UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT IN VIEW IMPENDING DISCUSSION
OF PROPOSAL TO CREATE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS AT FEBRUARY 6 - MARCH 10 SESSION OF UN HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO CONSULT
WITH CUBANS IN ORDER CLARIFY POSITIONS OF BOTH
COUNTRIES. AS USINT HAVANA AWARE, ON DECEMBER 6 UNGA
THIRD COMMITTEE APPROVED BY NARROW MARGIN (62 FOR,
49 AGAINST, 21 ABSTENTIONS, 16 ABSENT) CUBAN PROCEDURAL
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PROPOSAL TO DEFER UNTIL FEBRUARY-MARCH MEETING OF
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACTION ON RESOLUTION CALLING
FOR CREATION OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. USINT HAVANA SHOULD REQUEST APPOINTMENT AT HIGH
LEVEL HOPEFULLY
DURING WEEK OF JANUARY 16, FOR DISCUSSION WITH CUBANS

ON THIS SUBJECT. AT THIS MEETING, YOU SHOULD MAKE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) US REGRETS THAT DURING THIRD COMMITTEE DEBATE
LAST DECEMBER QUESTION OF CREATION HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WAS DEFERRED.

B) US DOES NOT SEE THIS PROPOSAL AS DIRECTED
AGAINST ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES.

RATHER, CREATION OF HIGH COMMISSIONER OFFICE WOULD
SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE UN'S JUSTIFIED CONCERN FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS ON GLOBAL BASIS. WE BELIEVE THAT MAJORITY OF
MEMBERS OF UNGA WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THIS
PROPOSAL, BOTH AT THE FEBRUARY-MARCH MEETING OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND AT THE 33RD UNGA SESSION
BEGINNING NEXT SEPTEMBER.

C) WE HOPE TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONAL SITUATION
REGARDING THIS PROPOSAL BOTH IN GENEVA AND IN NEW YORK,
AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY US AND CUBA, WHICH HAVE
ADOPTED SIMILAR POSITIONS RECENTLY ON SOME HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUES, SHOULD LINE UP ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THIS
PROPOSAL.

D) WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT
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CUBA'S REASONS FOR OPPOSING THIS PROPOSAL. OUR
DELEGATION TO THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION WILL BE PREPARED TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH
THE CUBAN DELEGATION AS DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE
PROCEEDS.

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